Assassination Panel Appoints 2 Probers

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By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Select Committee on Assassinations announced yesterday the appointment of two veteran New York City detectives as deputy chief investigators for the inquiry into the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

Edward M. Evans, 45, will supervise investigators assigned to the King investigation. Clifford A. Fenton Jr., 49, will be in charge of those assigned to the Kennedy assassination.

The appointments to the $30,000-a-year posts were hailed at a press conference by De. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), chairman of the subcommittee for the King investigation.

Both Evans and Fenton have received numerous citations for their police work in New York and both are members of the New York Police Department's Honor Legion.

They come to the committee from New York's hand-picked Major Case Squad, which handles high-riority investigations of such crimes as the murders of police officers, bank robberies and kidnaping rings.

Evans and Fenton have worked closely in the past with the committee's two deputy chief counsels, Robert K. Tanenbaum and Robert J. Lehner, who have been career prosecutors in the New York district attorney's office. The two detectives worked with Tanenbaum on the Black Liberation Army murders of two New York City policemen. After two trials, the case resulted in the conviction of three suspects last year.

Fauntroy said he was delighted to have them on board. Several black members of the committee had voiced concern at a secret meeting last week about minority hiring, sources said, but chief counsel Richard A. Sprague satisfied them by pointing out that 11 of the 36 designated staffers at that point, including Evans and Fenton, were black.

Asked about the committee's proposed $6.5 million budget next year, Fauntroy said that "we certainly don't have a picnic ahead of us in the House in that regard, but I think we have a picnic ahead of us [in the House] in that regard, but I think we have the overwhelming sentiment of the Amreican people. They want the truth."

The House committee is currently operating on an interim $150,000 budget which will run out Jan. 3. Committee officials confirmed yesterday, after some initial confession over the issue, that until they get a new budget, they will be limited under a continuing resolution to spending of another $150,000 after Jan. 4. In effect, committee officials said, that means they will run out of money around mid-February unless they get their new budget by then.

In addition to the Kennedy and King assassinations, the committee plans to investigate the murders last year of Mafia boss Sam Giancana and his former lieutenant, Johnny Roselli, both of whom figured in assassination plots by the Central Intelligence Agency against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro in the early 1960s. Primarily because of those two killings, the committee obtained broad authority to inquire into the deaths of Kennedy, King and "any others the select committee shall determine."